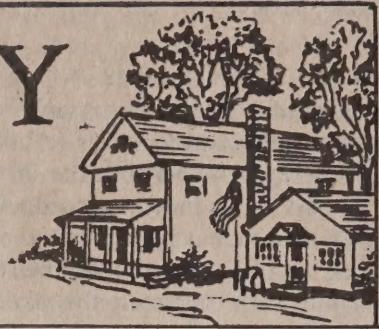




MONTEREY

NEWS

JULY 1986



Monterey Town Meeting, Part II

At the July 19 Special Town Meeting to reconsider the Monterey Town Budget, the Selectmen, Finance Committee and Assessors will recommend the following changes in amounts presented to voters at the May 3 Town Meeting:

Highways — Reduce Highway Capital Expenditures from \$57,222 to \$32,222, calling in an additional \$5,000 from Revenue Sharing. Leave the amount to be appropriated for Highway Maintenance the same (\$54,000). Increase the amount appropriated for Machinery and Tools from \$16,000 to \$20,000, because of recent problems with trucks.

Vacation, Sick and Holiday Pay — Raise from \$7,000 to \$10,400, a recommendation made possible because the cost of Health Insurance went down by \$3,700.

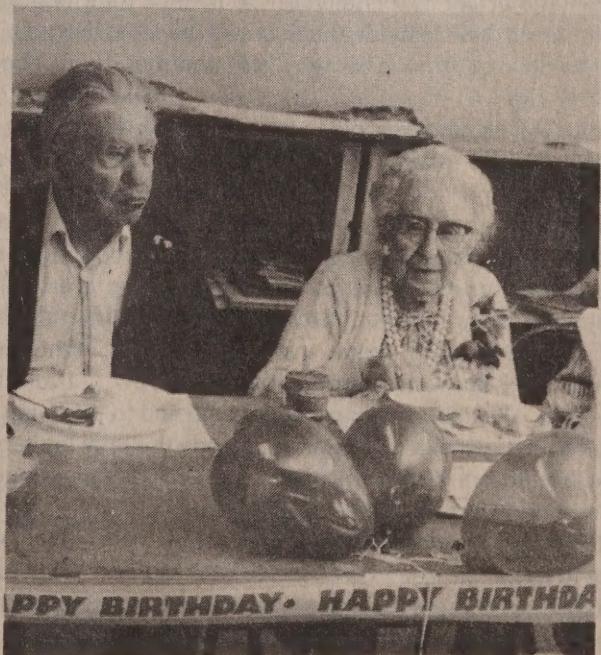
Special Articles — Some items, such as loan and interest money for the Town Garage, will not come up because it is felt they are essential at this time. Money for the library furnace, Fire Company insurance and for a consultant to the Planning Board also fall in this category. The new Police Cruiser will not be discussed because money for this purchase comes from Federal Revenue Sharing funds, not taxes. Changes and deletions include: Stabilization Fund reduced from original request of \$17,500 to \$10,000. Conservation Fund reduced from \$500 to \$0. Legal Fund reduced from \$250 to \$0. Jaws of Life reduced from \$18,500 to \$0. Office Furniture for Town Offices reduced from \$1,500 to \$0. Guardrails reduced from \$10,000 to \$0. The Audit of Town records dropped from \$8,500 to \$2,000 because Nancy Maglione has offered to help accomplish the task and it was realized that the town doesn't need a complete audit as originally thought.

These changes will bring the total override recommendation down from \$165,000 to \$115,000. For each recommended change it will be up to the voters to decide whether to approve the new amount, stick to the original amount or vote for an entirely different amount.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a careful and accurate exposition, written by a Monterey Assessor, on the override concept as it relates to Monterey. At the end of the article it is explained by what a small amount Monterey is being advised to increase its budget. One point crucial to your understanding of the significance of an override, which eluded me through three readings until I finally called Cynthia Weber for help, is this: These are *two* applica-

tions of the 2 1/2 percent limit. The first 2 1/2 limitation is incontrovertible and is applied to the total valuation of taxable property in the town. (Whatever the town's total value is in a given year, the assessors may never charge each property owner more than \$25 per thousand dollars-worth of value on his property. The second use of the 2 1/2 percent limitation applies to the *total tax levy* of the preceding year. (The total tax levy of this present year may not be more than 2 1/2 percent higher than the levy of the preceding year.) The second 2 1/2 percent limitation is the one we can vote to override. Monterey with its \$9.88 per thousand in fiscal '86 was well under the first limitation then, and, as the Assessor's article points out, will be safely below it again this fiscal year, even with the recommended override.

— Ellen Pearson



Wallace and Nina Tryon's
Birthday Party

**Monterey Arts Festival, July
11th and 12th, SEE p. 5**

Wallace and Nina Tryon's
Birthday Party

The Override

An override is not necessarily evil, nor is it an undesirable action for a town to take. An override is a lawful procedure set forth in the Proposition 2 1/2 legislation. An override is fully in accord with the intent implicit and explicit in that same act.

The act was formulated in the belief that a fair relationship should exist between the assessed valuation of a municipality and the property taxes raised by that municipality. By common consensus it was stipulated that the property taxes levied by a community should not exceed 2 1/2 percent of that community's taxable valuation. That is to say, the tax rate of the community should not exceed \$25 per thousand.

The act froze the proportional relationship of tax rate to valuation of each community to its 1979 relationship and later to its 1981 relationship. From that point each succeeding year's levy limit could increase no more than 2 1/2 percent, plus a small increase based on new value documented to very demanding criteria. Understanding that this measured growth could become out of step with inflation which could grow at a faster rate and out of step with development which also might mushroom, the act provided for local option to override the state imposed levy limit. Thus, each community which was operating at a percentage below 2 1/2 could vote to change their relationship to meet their individual needs and the local determination. In no case, however, may any community go about the 2 1/2 cap.

Monterey began this whole procedure with a levy limit of 1.1 percent; the relationship in Fiscal Year 1986 was .9 percent. The proportional amount of tax monies used in 1981 to service the needs of the community has been reduced; while at the same time, the needs of the mushrooming community have grown. Inflation has taken a very great toll.

Another factor important to this discussion is that the act also provides relief from the progressively tightening restraints by allowing communities to borrow outside the levy limit. Most cities and towns have turned to this form of relief. Free Cash can also be used outside the levy limit, but what heretofore had been reserved to meet emergencies have now dwindled to alarming levels.

This is the history of the act and tools with which we have to deal. The voters will decide how Monterey will proceed. Please remember that an override is just the permission of the voters to exceed the state imposed levy limit; it is not the actual voting of funds. The actual voting of funds is done at Town meeting. The voters decide how much they wish to spend. If the amount voted requires a tax levy higher than the amount developed by the state, these same voters can instruct the Town to override the state limit and raise in taxes what they deem necessary — up to the overall 2 1/2 percent cap of the \$25 tax rate.

For Fiscal 1986, Monterey's state imposed levy limit was \$513,416; however, using the override procedures advocated in the Prop. 2 1/2 law, the Town could have used local option to levy taxes as high as the 2 1/2 percent cap of

\$1,299,130 (\$25 tax rate). For Fiscal 1987 (relating to the Annual Town Meeting of May 4, 1986), the state imposed levy limit is \$546,251; however the Town could legally override by local option to the Prop. 2 1/2 levy cap of \$1,350,000 (which is the 2 1/2 percent of taxable valuation specified as fair and equitable in the act). In fact, the Town has asked for an override of \$115,000, which would allow the levy of 1.28 percent of taxable valuation. This amount is well within the intent of the law; it is about half of what the law specified as being proper.

Remember that, even if an override is voted, the appropriations are voted separately. The override is permission to use funds, but the voters decide how much. The total appropriations must be less than the override — how much less is up to the voters.

— The Monterey Board of Assessors

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LIFE: Reflections On Survival and Enhancement

I recently spent a week in the Sonora desert in Arizona. It was an eye-opener for someone who has spent nearly half a lifetime in New England. In the desert it seems that all life forms exist on the imminent edge of destruction. Lack of water on one hand and predators on the other makes both plant and animal life exist with the sense that life is precarious. So the desert life forms have taken a strong stance to protect themselves from the danger of being extinguished. There is a saying in the desert country, "If it doesn't bite, pinch or scratch you, you are not in the desert."

So the great majority of desert plants surround themselves with powerful and effective thorns, so that they may thwart any attempted intrusion into their space. It is as though they know that if they should be destroyed the space they occupy may be empty of life for years to come. So, having gained the precarious toe-hold on life they have, they are determined to do all they can to assure their continuance. And it works! The desert maintains life by providing powerful discouragement to all predators.

Consider in contrast how life maintains itself in New England. Here there is an abundance of water, so that life has not organized itself around a precarious existence, but one that assumes there will always be an abundance. Life preserves itself by acting as if life is available in abundant supply. If a plant is destroyed by a predator — "not to worry" — a dozen plants are waiting to take its place. There is no need for the individual plant to be protective of itself. So few of our plants have armored themselves with thorns and stickers. Rather there is the "knowing" that life will be preserved by the principal of abundance.

It is an occasion of wonder to me that each area has its distinctive wisdom. There is a "knowing" that has grown out of many centuries of "experience". The plant forms in each area have learned not only how to be maintained, but also enhanced. Life knows on some deep level what is needed and it provides the elements that enable survival and hopefully enhancement.

What do we know about the life form known as humanity? Does it, too, have this primitive knowledge that plants and animals possess, whether in the desert or in New England? Just a few days ago I was talking with a young person who has spent three months traveling in China, largely going by train or bus staying in dormitories, exposing herself as fully as possible to the life of the ordinary people. She found herself amazed at the versatility and utter simplicity of these people. Travelling, many of them carried a tin cup and a toothbrush and little else. Yet they had a freedom and openness that amazed her again and again. They did not act like a people living with deprivation. Western eyes, at first glance, might view them as deprived, but they carried the air of a people who were open to life and to the fact that life may indeed have possibilities that were still waiting to open to them. Yes the primitive wisdom in the plants or the desert — and of plants in all other places — is present in our humanity. Yes, and so much more!

In addition to this primitive knowing that is in plant life there are many levels of knowing about how life may be viewed from the perspective of our humanity. First of all, it seems all life forms concern themselves with survival. But beyond the principle of survival is the principle of enhancement. In so much of our current Western culture we have acted as if enhancement has to do with adding more material things to our lives. Sometimes after going far down the trail of adding more and more things we discover that we have contributed more to life's impoverishment than to its enhancement.

The variations on what is considered life enhancing seems to be infinite. The great freedoms of our humanity boggle the imagination. Compared to the plants we appear to have god-like powers. So many possible directions. So many pictures of how life shall not only survive but be enriched!

I am reminded of the phrase Albert Schweitzer added to our consciousness when he spoke of "reverence for life". This strikes a resonant place within us. As we cultivate a reverence for life it makes us aware of the searching within all life forms for survival — but as life moves up the ladder, so much more than just survival is involved. Questions of enhancement, meaning, purpose fairly swirl around all that touches our humanity. There is a wisdom and knowing that is at work in the plants and animals whether they live in the desert or in the New England terrain. And if we will but let ourselves be aware, we may discover an ever-increasing thrust toward meaning and purpose and direction in all that concerns the life-seeking expression within our humanity. Truly, Schweitzer was right. The deeper we see the more we have reverence for life — reverence for all life.

— Virgil V. Brallier

Community Potluck Dinner

Wednesday, July 30 in the church basement. All are welcome. Bring a casserole, salad or dessert.

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Fire Department News

Webloes

At the June and Pack Meeting, Chris Callahan, Bill Goewey, Kip Loder, Michael Ohman and Michael Soncini received the Arrow of Light. It is the highest award a Cub Scout can earn. These boys and Colin Storti have joined Boy Scout Troop 39. Conrad Ohman is the new Scout Master and Paul Harvey is the Assistant Scout Master. Other Scouts of Troop 39 are Tom Harvey, Cliff Love, Ed Harvey and John Pickert. If you are a boy 10 1/2 or 11 years old and have completed the 5th grade, and you would like to find out more about Boy Scout Troop 39, please call Conrad Ohman or Paul Harvey.

Tigers

The Tiger Cubs are looking forward to becoming Cub Scouts in the fall.

Little League

This year, after their regular season ends, the Little League is planning on playing four extra games. They will also be bringing up next year's players from Pee Wee. The 12-year olds will not participate because it is sort of a preview of next year when they will no longer be playing.

In July, the Monterey Yankees will be attending a baseball clinic with the Pittsfield Cubs.

Our Monterey Graduates — 1986

Mount Everett — Connie Amstead, Mark Candee, Jeff Gauthier, Dale Lyman, Heidi Nicholson, Stephen Phillips, Monika Pizzichemi, Brenda Provost, Suzanne Parks and Ellen Whitbeck.

From Berkshire School — John Kirven Blount and from St. Joseph's — Kate Bradley.

We're having our ninth annual steak roast on the last Saturday in July (the 26th) at Greene Park. Dinner will be served from 4-7 p.m., and there will be music and dancing afterwards. Soda, beer, wine, hot dogs, and hamburgs will be available throughout. See a member of the Fire Company for tickets. They always sell out, so do it as soon as possible.

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Monterey Arts Festival

The Monterey Arts Council is to be thanked for their untiring efforts to make our town luminescent in the general flowering of the arts that summer brings to the Berkshires. This year there is to be a Shakespearian theme that will give literature its fitting place of honor among the other arts: the performance of favorite scenes and soliloquies from Shakespeare's plays and the reading of some of his best-loved sonnets will be included along the Elizabethan dance, music and decorations. Even the refreshments served on both days of the festival will carry out the Shakespearian theme. Tickets are \$15, and will admit the holder to both the opening, Friday evening and the special events at Rock Ridge on Tyringham Road from 12:30 p.m. to 5 on Saturday.

The gala opening at 7 p.m., July 11th will be at the Fire House. After an hour for viewing the exhibition of arts and crafts, the skill and imagination of Monterey's artists will be celebrated by two musical events. The Fairfax Consort of Viols will perform at 8 p.m. with incidental chamber music on viola de gamba, lute and recorder, and at 8:30 the Dunstable Singers will give a program of madrigals sung a cappella in the Renaissance style.

EXHIBITIONS AND PERFORMANCES, Saturday, July 12 — The art exhibitions in the Fire House will be open to the general public all day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

EVENTS AT ROCK RIDGE

12:30—1:30 "Country Pastimes of the 17th Century", a program of dance in period costumes, accompanied by fiddle, tabor pipe, and recorder, by the New England Song and Dance Company.

1:30—2:30, Elizabethan Musical Celebration. Dowland, Gibbons and Morley will be among the composers whose works will be performed by the Fairfax Consort of Viols.

2:30—3:30, Refreshments: traditional English savories.

3:30—5:00, "Outcasts", Recitations, readings, and acting Shakespeare's works by The Performer's Ensemble. These performances will focus on lovers whose devotion has led them, in one way or another, outside the normal boundaries of society. There will be interludes of madrigals by the Dunstable Singers illustrating the joys and anguish of love.

Readers will note that the tickets are more expensive this year, but the Festival is more of a bargain than ever, with its four performing groups and refreshments both days. The costs of everything have, of course, gone up. Rock Ridge has become a professional conference and workshop center and has to charge a fee this year, for the first time. The Arts Council has asked that their gratitude to Alice and Arthur Somers be noted for the special low rate given the Festival this year and for their generous support in the past. The elegant "cottage" and beautiful grounds of Rock Ridge have set a special tone for Monterey's celebrations of the arts.

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Contra and Square Dance Schedule for JULY

Saturday, JULY 12, Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange on Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. from 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, \$3.50 and children, \$1 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Saturday, JULY 26, Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange on Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. from 8:30 - 11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have done it before. Joe Baker calling, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Admission \$3.50 Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

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To The Editor:

I read with interest Bill Sadlowski's thoughtful letter in the June issue of the *News* and wonder what, if anything, we will do about the concerns each one of us has about the future development of this town. Every single person I talk to is worried; some are horrified and some just throw up their hands and say there is nothing you can do.

Well, other towns are doing something. For example, I would like to quote from a report made jointly for three neighboring towns by graduate students in Regional Planning at U.Mass.

"The towns of Deerfield, Leverett and Sunderland share a number of common threats as a result of rapid growth; these include:

- deterioration of natural resources, including the loss of prime agricultural lands and aquifer recharge areas to urban land uses;

- extensive frontage lot (so-called "approval not required" or ANR) development, which in turn is undercutting rural town character and scenic qualities.

- rapid escalation in land and housing prices, which threatens to displace long term town residents, the elderly, and young families.

- increases in town and school budgets, caused by population growth."

The report goes on to say that the recent growth is caused by many factors, and then:

"small towns across the Commonwealth are faced with similar growth and growth-related problems. The challenge for small communities is to employ techniques and methods to effectively manage this growth."

There follows a report from the Regional Planning Consulting Firm of Philip B. Herr Associates who worked in conjunction with the students and whose joy it is (among other things) to construct legislation and/or to help the town boards do so. I was happily surprised to read the following:

"Direct regulation of growth rates now has over a decade of use in Massachusetts, longer nationwide. The Supreme Judicial Court and the Federal District Courts have supported such controls, and about two dozen towns have adopted them."

Monterey (ahead of its time, as is not unusual) has a workable open space plan made in 1975, again under the auspices of U. Mass. This plan (Natural Resource and Land Use Plan) is at present being updated by the Planning Board, which is the first step in the process of long term Growth Management.

On July 19, the town will have an opportunity to take another step. We can build on this important work and vote funds for a professional planning consultant to the Monterey Planning Board. The money was already allocated for this purpose, but as our budget has to be cut, this item will have to be voted on once again. It may seem an easy thing to cut, a complicated and expensive answer to an insoluble problem.

Well, it is solvable, but we can't do it on our own. We

need the help of professional people, whose job and training has fitted them for our very problems, and who will enable us to take advantage of the Growth Management techniques which have been tried successfully elsewhere. Other towns have forked out the money to preserve their future. Why can't we? I think Monterey deserves a chance to act and to make its own decisions before it's too late; to find out what we want as a town, as a community, and that is one of the things a long range plan does. It provides time, time needed to find out what it is indeed that we want. We also need, at the very least, some time between land deals which are coming at us thick and fast. And at the very most, we need a long term Growth Management Plan. Let's get going.

— Joyce Scheffey

TownScapes
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OF THE BERKSHIRES.
by Leonard Weber
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Church News

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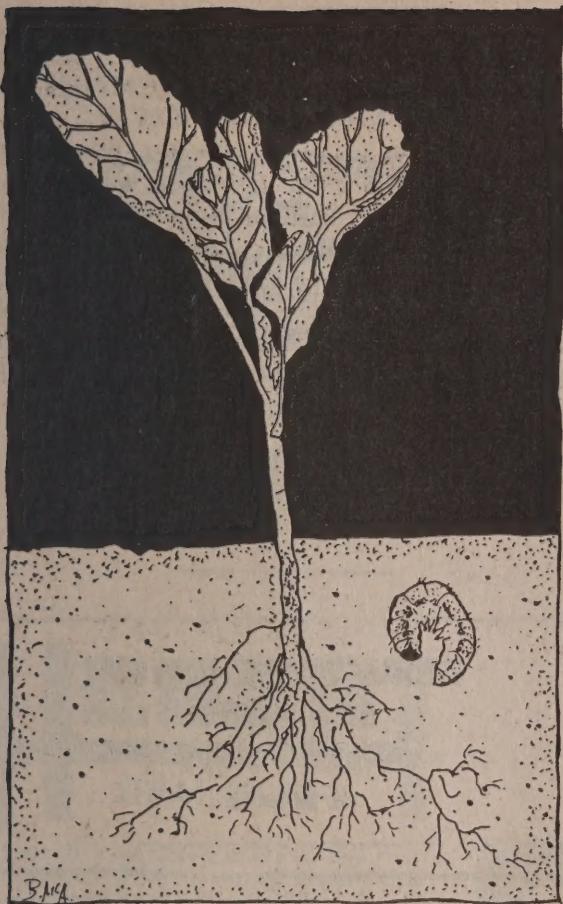
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Cutworms

As usual, it has been an odd spring for the garden, and I find myself hard put to remember what usual used to be. Even though I can't remember just what that was, I hope I am safe in saying that what we just had wasn't it. One of the nice things about April and May was the lack of black flies. While heat and drought hit other parts of the country hard, causing terrible discomfort and agricultural losses, we here in Monterey just had to water our gardens a bit and feel smug about the zillions of black fly larvae that dried up before they grew up, as streams shrank and little brooks dwindled.

Without the buzzing black clouds around our heads, it has been a little easier this year to see what else has been happening insect-wise in the garden. Every morning the second bed of spinach looked as though a tiny chain-saw man had been through, lopping off big branches and trunks. Newly transplanted cauliflower and Brussels sprouts had been visited by the same little chopper and lay like felled timber, wilting a bit in the sun of late May and early June.

Most gardeners know this sad sight — cleaned-limbed young brassicas cut down in the prime of their handsome youth. It is enough to make you cry, especially if you are the one who nursed them through the gray days of March and April, lovingly turning them round and round on the windowsill as they reached for the light, promising them the true sun some day in May. It happens every year, but

for us this year has been worse than most. We do appreciate the dearth of black flies, but we know we have also been the victims of a veritable plague of cutworms.

Cutworms are the larval forms of noctuid moths and members of the largest of the moth and butterfly family. Some of the noctuids, called underwing moths, have brightly colored hind wings. They keep these concealed beneath camouflage forewings as they hide against a tree trunk during the day. If a hungry bluejay should spot them anyway, they flash their orange (called "startle coloration") and shock the bird at the last minute so that he thinks, "Well, maybe this is actually a horrible-tasting monarch — anyway, it's not to be trusted." Other adult noctuid moths are called owlet moths or Millers. Most have powdery, dusky wings and they all fly at night and are attracted to light. They are often victims of the bug-zapping traps that people put out for mosquitoes (which are diurnal and are not attracted to light). Most noctuids also have sensitive "ears" (tympanal auditory organs) which can detect frequencies from 3 to 100 kilocycles per second. Three kilocycles per second is in the top octave of the piano and the upper limit of a person's hearing is 15 kilocycles per second.

One of the most famous species of cutworm, the noctuid larva, is the black cutworm, known principally for its work in the Midwestern cornfields where it has attracted a lot of attention and money in research. It is thanks to its "economic importance to man" (disastrous effect on a cornfield) that the black cutworm is fairly well understood by men and women of science today.

It has been discovered, for instance, that cutworms are just as happy to eat weeds as corn, so an infested cornpatch which is weedy ends up producing more corn plant survivors (and corn to harvest) than one which is kept weed-free. It has also been discovered, in Iowa anyway, that strong southerly winds can carry the adult moths several hundred miles in one to three nights, bringing in thousands of egg-layers from Missouri, causing the Iowa corn farmers a great deal of trouble. In northern Japan and central Europe there is the same kind of situation, with winds from the south repopulating the north every spring.

Integrated pest management scientists are developing various methods for forecasting cutworm infestations. This includes monitoring adult populations which is done with a sex pheromone trap called a modified Wong trap. Two types of chemical attractant are dispersed from tiny glass capillary tubes and adult moths can be captured and counted before the corn comes up. Then predictions are made, based also upon weather patterns (wind) and the farmers can get ready to battle the cutworms before they have lost any corn seedlings.

In our garden we have not yet installed any modified Wong traps, but there is a strange look there, as though the tide had come in during a big lemonade picnic and left about 200 paper cups half-buried in sand. These are actually modified Dixie-cup cutworm collars, and they do work.

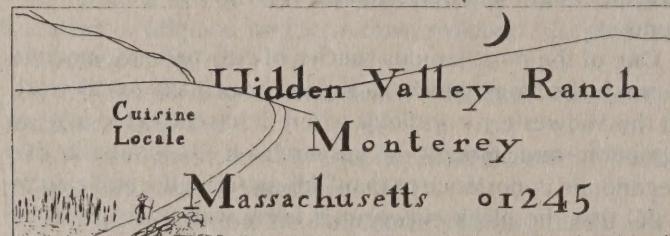
Once you know you have a cutworm working your broccoli, dig gently around the most recently felled plant until you find him, curled up and innocent-looking as he sleeps



Susan McAllester

The Bicycle Brigade
Memorial Day, 1986

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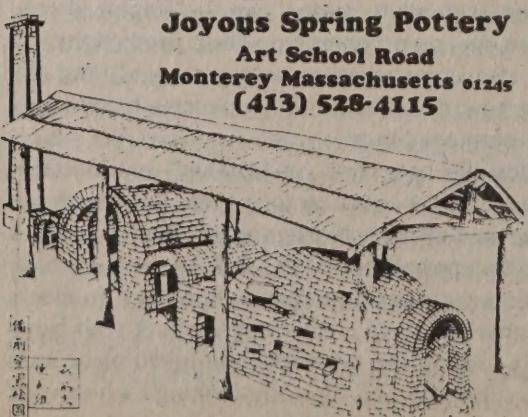
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Land Trust News

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The Planning Board and the Conservation Committee have asked the Land Trust for help in updating the Master Plan prepared for the Town in 1975, as well as help in developing a new and current Open Space/Recreation Plan. Such a plan is the first step in obtaining Federal and State funding, and is essential to the many options available to the town in planning its future.

This plan must include: background information on the town, such as is contained in the 1975 Master Plan; present and future goals; an inventory of existing facilities; an analysis of conservation and recreational needs and a five-year plan of action for the implementation of the above.

It must also include a survey of the citizens' views and wishes. As the first step in the Open Space/Recreation Plan we have prepared a questionnaire, based on those of other towns, which should be in the hands of the Monterey citizenry by the time of this publication. The views of town residents are not only required as an essential feature for future government funding, but are vital for fair and accurate future planning. Therefore, we hope for everyone's prompt and thoughtful completion of the questionnaire.

The Board of Directors has called for the Annual Meeting of the Land Trust to take place at 12:30 on Saturday, August 9. We will be electing new board members at that time and we hope that many of you will be interested in running. Call Bob Theriot (528-9266) for details.

Aside from the meeting we are planning activities that will be fun and give us a chance to get together and enjoy each other's company. Details are to be worked out, but we are heading toward a Pot-Luck picnic at an appropriate spot and will have more news on this in next month's *News*. So save the date for food and fun with your Land Trust neighbors.

— Joyce Scheffey.

Cutworms - cont'd from p.7

off his big meal of the night before. What you do with him is up to you. If you do what I do, you'll notice he is gray on the outside but green (like broccoli) on the inside. I do it quickly and without hatred — he is just making a living and likes broccoli, same as me. Only this is my garden and I am boss.

The next step is to give the survivors physical protection. Cut off the bottom inch of a paper cup. Then dig the dirt away from a little seedling to make sure no cutworms lurk there. Slip the collar over, settle it in the ground, and fill inside and out with dirt, making very sure not to drop a cutworm down on the inside. The top edge of the cup should stick up about an inch and a half above the ground.

One other method which I've heard of but not yet tried involves sticking a match stick into the ground right next to the plant stem. They say a cutworm has to circle the plant in order to cut it, so he will be stopped by the stick. Personally, I have my doubts, but I am prepared to try it on a few bean plants, for science. All in all, I'll take cutworms over black flies any day, and I don't mind an odd spring in which my broccoli gets eaten instead of me.

— Bonner McAllester

Rural Character

You can't get two minutes into any discussion of land use in Monterey without hearing, if not using, the phrase "rural character". Some people will do an awful lot in the name of preserving rural character. Whenever a cause draws such attention, it's worthwhile picking at it some, just to see whether it's veneer or solid stuff.

On the surface, rural character in New England means tidy white clapboard houses, church and store, flowers in the dooryard. It means a pleasing balance of fields, pasture, woods, lakes, rivers, old narrow roads, all in hills and valleys that give the zip of anticipation to every walk, ride, or drive. Birdsong and near silence, the wind in the leaves, open sky. This is the easy part, identifying what's peaceful and pleasing, the unencumbered merit in a rural landscape. Those who are strong on rural character naturally go to bat for laws that limit a variety of human activities with demonstrated potential for spoiling those aspects of the landscape. Such laws typically regulate housing density, waste disposal, pollution, noise, smells, eyesores. Of course, law is the cornerstone of civilization, which in a broad sense is all that ever spoiled a natural environment in the first place. The commitment to tough regulation readily gets topheavy. The lawyers required to hold our hand through all of it must also fit into the same rural landscape, or we lose that aim to preserve.

Some take this aspect of the matter right to heart. Consider the old-timer who could care less about zoning. "Make a few trailer parks," he says, "That'll keep 'em out". You know he's dead right, and trailers wouldn't bother him nearly as much as a raft of damnfool regulations and the lawyers paid to explain them. Our Rural Character likely regards thoughtful citizens concerned about open space, water quality and housing density as late arrivals trying to push the door closed on the crowd behind them.

The language may be fancy, he figures, but the intention is simple, and obvious. His idea of country life may have more to do with some useful junk in the yard, cars that don't run kept for parts, an on-going project, the sort of things his new neighbor might call an eyesore, and try to regulate by law.

Before the meaning of "rural character" gets too muddy, let's back up and come at it again. Rural places occupy a middle ground between the wilderness and the city. Farms, where crops and animals are raised and kept for human use, are the predominant feature. Farm life also occupies a cultural middle ground: on the one hand, a farmer works directly with creatures and plants; on the other hand, he's busy in the marketplace buying and selling goods. What's special about farming is the absolute limits nature places on a farmer's options for manipulating his stock and crops to increase productivity.

Long-term success in the marketplace is directly dependent upon good husbandry of animals and the land, which have a life and requirements independent of the marketplace. A prudent farmer gives good weight to the cyclical aspect of things. What's taken from the soil has to be returned; maintenance, chores, keeping the seasons

must always temper the will to continual linear progress, unlimited growth. Farming can foster an attitude that accepts the natural limits on our enterprising, competitive human spirit. This attitude is at the heart of what we're calling rural character.

I don't suggest that certain occupations are righteous, and others evil. There are plenty of farmers rolling in dough who have abused their land, who focus exclusively on the marketplace short-term, who are more skilled with the glad hand than the sleaziest used car salesman. There are lawyers, bankers, and — dare I say it? — real estate brokers, spec house builders! who bring thought, respect and consideration to their business in a way that nourishes human exchange in the marketplace. Perhaps thrifty farmers and fair lawyers are equally rare, but we've known all along that the world's a lousy place to have to live. Given the choice, anyone would move.

Fortunately, we don't have that choice. We've got only one world to inhabit. Moving seems easier, and we probably would if we could, but imagine the nag it would be to remember what a mess we left behind. A discomfort akin to deficit spending, and if there's one thing we'll always need, it's a good night's sleep. So here we are. The poet Gary Snyder once told about riding with a friend who chucked his beer can out the window, saying, "Hey, nature'll take care of it." He figured that might be true, but pointed out that we need to care for our own moral life too, and do what we know to be right, regardless of our individual insignificance in the large picture.

What shall we do, then, to make the best of our bad situation? Free enterprise has merit, but right now the hottest commodity is th land itself, and the most renumerative use of it is building second homes. Think about "second houses". What's wrong with the first ones? More or less, they're so crowded, dirty, noisy, and generally uninhabitable long-term full-time that their occupants need relief. They live and work in civilized power centers, so at least the money is good, and enough is available to buy the needed relief. There's a sort of natural law at work in the marketplace too, with a levelling effect: the money goes to

continued on p. 15

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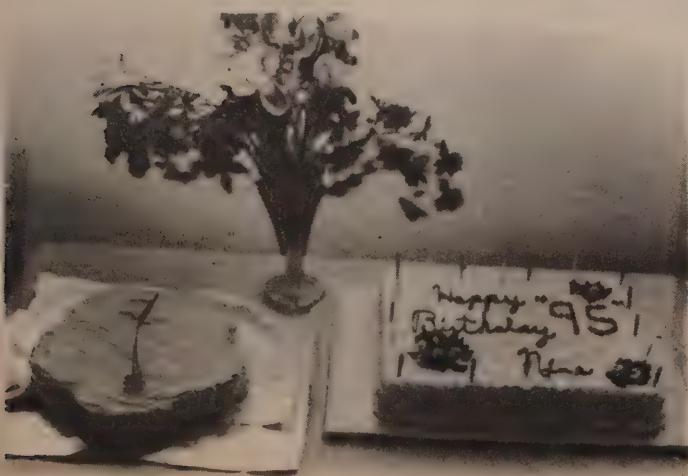
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Personals

I want to thank Mildred Walsh and all those who helped her with my 95th birthday party at the church social room, June 9. She also deserves much thanks for the delicious dinner for 30 elderly people (a regular monthly event) that took place at the same time, and for cake and ice cream served to everyone who came in at 1 p.m. Millie's cake was for my brother, Wallace to commemorate his recent birthday, too, and Terry Callan made a beautiful decorated cake with candles all over it. Special thanks should also go to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Molle for bringing Margaret White, another of our oldest residents, to the party. And, lastly, thanks to the 43 people who brought cards. I keep getting them out and looking at them again, remembering all those kind wishes.

- Nina Tryon



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Letters To The Editor

Dear Old Friends

Reading the April edition of the *Monterey News*, I spotted an article written by Joni Hartman-Fertman Wolfe of San Francisco. She mentioned an article entitled "Ghost Camp" by Bonner McAllester. In it, it mentioned the magic of Camp Owaissa, etc. Immediately it awakened many memories of the past in me, as I spent in this beautiful area of New England. My grandmother Nellie Brown Bogart sold that property to Camp Owaissa, also the adjacent properties on the Mt. Hunger side, to Dr. Ives who built Camp Fernway, a girls' camp in that location.

It was beautiful to sit on our porch above the two camps, on the slopes of Mt. Hunger and listen to the music and singing along with very good yodeling echoing across Lake Garfield.

The refreshing sounds of the owl, the Whippoorwill, the nighthawk and other nocturnal animals who also added to the magical charm of this magnificent area. The scent of the flora of this area also added to its alluring atmosphere. During the summer months, we had so many adventurous things to do we never lacked for things. Picking berries was always a must on our agenda. Blueberries, huckleberry, raspberry, gooseberry, blackberry, cherry, chokecherry, blackcaps and wintergreen berries all abounded in this area. A few more types of berry I might add to this list.

With all these nice fruits, we found many ways of disposal, such as great big juicy pies, canning etc. along with getting out the ice cream freezer and going to our ice house and getting out a block of ice and adding a little rocksalt and grinding out the most delicious fruit ice creams. In the spring of the year we helped collect the syrup from our maple sugar trees and take it to the syrup house. There it was cooked down and made into maple syrup or maple sugar cakes. A great place to get sick, especially for a little boy.

So many wonderful memories to look back on. There is no book written that I would exchange for the very wonderful boyhood I lived in this beautiful land. The people who lived there were just as delightful. God bless them all.

—Jerry Seitz
Huntington Beach, Calif.

To the Editor:

Monterey has fans all over the country, particularly because of the *Monterey News*. We know who you are, we see your ads, your fads and your furor. Thanks, thanks, to Marie Thompson for running with the ball as Interim Editor well beyond the number of months she offered. Let us see news of you, Marie, now that you are back in the private sector.

— Burling McAllester
San Francisco, CA

Correction and Addition

In the June News, the election results for Treasurer were reported incorrectly. The new Treasurer is Maryellen Brown, well known to us for her many years of service as Town Secretary. Article 39 was passed, with no dissent, by a voice vote: "Whereas, a ban on nuclear weapons testing would promote the security of the United States and would be a first step towards a complete halt in the arms race, Therefore, the town of Monterey calls upon the President to immediately respond to the Soviet Union's unilateral halt of testing by joining them in a mutual and verifiable suspension of testing, and calls upon Congress to enact legislation that would establish a moratorium on nuclear testing." (Copies to be sent to the President, Congressman Conte and Senators Kennedy and Kerry)

— The Editor

Explanation At Community Supper

Prof. Walter Wink and June Keener Wink, just back from a trip to South Africa, provided a highly informative program at the Monterey Community Supper of June 25th. Their slides of breath-taking landscapes, neat and prosperous Afrikaaner farms, and appalling poverty and physical hardship in Native "homelands" and townships told the story of today's most blatant human oppression. Wick pointed out that the current violence in South Africa is not "Blacks against Blacks", as it is often made to appear in the press. The "Vigilantes" are police supported mercenaries hired by the government to burn down and eliminate townships where resistance to the government is strongest.

Prof. Wink, who lives in Sandisfield and teaches at the Auburn Theological Seminary in New York City observed that the natives in South Africa have developed the most multifaceted non-violent resistance in world history and it is based in large part on the teachings of the New Testament.

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Monterey Grange News

Monterey Grange No. 291 met June 4 for the election of officers. The following were elected: Master, Tolitha Butler; Overseer, Carl Jesperson; Lecturer, Mary Wallace; Steward, Ethel Warner; Ass't Steward, Richard Hardisty; L.A. Steward, Eleanor Kimberly; Chaplain, Florence Brown; Treasurer, Ann Vickerman; Secretary, Edna Leavenworth; Gatekeeper, Betty Wilber; Ceres, Terry Callan; Pomona, Violet Hardisty; Flora, Alice Shaffer; Executive Committee, Robert Hardisty.

The recent food sale in charge of the Youth Committee at the Big Y was a success and the Grange wants to thank all who helped.

On June 3 the Grange furnished the program at Sheffield Grange No. 224. The Grange wants to thank all who donated money in memory of the late Amy Enoe. On June 16, the Grange will furnish the program at West Stockbridge.

The next meeting will be July 16 for the Annual Youth Night.

Grange Calendar

On June 10, 10 of our members attended Pink and Green Sash Night at Umpachene Grange Number 261, where one of our members, Eva Klein, was presented the Community Service Award.

On June 16, 10 members went to West Stockbridge Number 246 for Friendship Night and furnished the program.

On July 12 there will be a Flea Market at the Grange Hall with space available for rent.

Next meeting will be on July 16 for the Annual Youth Night with youths from neighboring Granges conducting the meeting and furnishing the program. There will be a fundraiser for youth projects.

— Mary Wallace

GRASSHOPPER

*Cousin of the cricket, brown and angled
Strident fiddler, shrilling hot noon;
Horolgist of a thousand sufficient hours,
Horizonless childhood: measured — gone so soon?*

— Dorothy Law

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Special Mention

Joel Kalodner, son of Nancy Kalodner of Beartown Road, and Howard Kalodner of Springfield, was graduated in June from Berkshire Country Day School in Lenox. Joel received the Ramsbotham History Prize. Joel will be attending Phillips Academy in Andover this fall.

The Night Skies

The evening star in the West, nearly all month, is Venus. Venus, Regulus, and the new moon will be doing a stately contra-dance July 8 through 12: on the 10th they will be in a close and beautiful cluster. The moon will cover (occult) Antares between 12 and 1 a.m. July 17th. Mars will be rising in the SE the evening of the 19th, close to the moon. Jupiter will be the morning star, easily visible at dawn in the SSE all through the month.

— David McAllester

A Quiet Day of Prayer and Personal Reflection On Theresa of Avila, with Sister Natalie Cain, SSJ.

"Water, A Woman and the Way" at Rock Ridge, Monterey, MA, Wed. July 30 from 9:30 — 3:00
Call 528-2624 or 528-4646

Johannes Megapolensis, Jr., was a Dutch missionary to the Mohawk and Mahican Indians on the Hudson River from 1642 - 1648. Though he noted that the languages of the two tribes were entirely different, he described their cultures as otherwise almost identical.

"The Indians are of much the same stature with us Dutchmen; some of them have very good features and their bodies and limbs are well proportioned; they all have black hair and eyes, but their skin is yellow. In summer they go naked, having only their private parts covered with a patch...In winter, they hang loosely about them an undressed deer's, or bear's, or panther's skin; or they take some Beaver and otter skins, or squirrel's or several kinds of skins which are plenty in this country, and sew some of them to the others, until it is a square piece, and it is then a garment for them or they buy of us Dutchmen two and a half ells of duffels, and that they hang loosely on them, just as it was torn off, without any sewing, and as they go away they look very much at themselves, and think they are very fine. They make themselves stockings and shoes of deer skin, or they take leaves of their corn and plat them together for shoes..."

"The women let their hair grow very long and tie it together a little and let it hang down their backs. Some of the men wear their hair on one side of the head, and some on both sides, and a long lock of hair hanging down. On the top of their heads they have a streak of hair from the forehead to the neck, about the breadth of three fingers, and this they shorten until it is about two or three fingers long, and it stands right on end like a cock's comb or hog bristles; on both sides of this cock's comb they cut the hair short off, except the aforesaid locks, and they also leave on the bare places here and there small locks...It is natural to them to have no beards; not one in an hundred has any hair about his mouth.

"They likewise paint their faces red, blue, etc., and then they look like the devil himself. They smear their heads with bear's grease, which they all carry with them for this purpose in a small basket; they say they do it to make their hair grow better and prevent their having lice. When they travel, they take with them some of their maize, a kettle, a wooden bowl, and a spoon; these they pack up and hang on their backs. Whenever they are hungry, they forthwith make a fire and cook; they can get fire by rubbing pieces of wood against one another, and that very quickly..."

"Their bread is Indian corn beaten to pieces between two stones, of which they make a cake, and bake it in the ashes; their other victuals are venison, turkeys, hares, bears, etc. The fish they cook just as they get them out of the water without cleansing; also the entrails of deer with all their contents, which they cook a little; with the flesh, they carve a little piece of bear-grease as large as two fists, and eat it up so without bread or anything else.

"They have their set times for going to catch fish, bears, panthers, and beavers. In the spring, they catch vast quantities of shad and lamprey, which are very large here: —

they lat them on the bark of trees in the sun, and dry them thoroughly hard, and then put them in bags which they plait from hemp which grows wild here, and keep the fish till winter. When their corn is ripe, they take off the ears and put them in deep pits, and preserve them therein the whole winter. They can also make nets and seines in their fashion; and when they want to fish with seines, ten or twelve men will go together and help each other, all of whom own the seine in common."

— David McAllester

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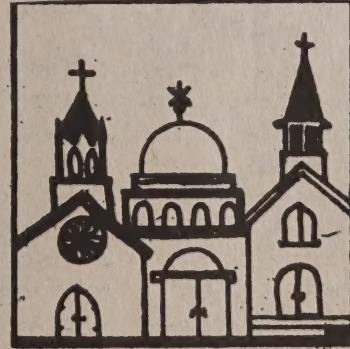
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Hugo and Alice DeMartino "We always enjoy the Monterey News"
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Angie Sherrard
Maray and Jeanne Bodin "Looking forward to the sun, the trees and the lake!"
M. Kirven Marchman
Roberta C. Kirven
Joan W. Reed*

continued from p. 10

where it wasn't before, and the less populated countryside near large cities gets more crowded. Fields and woods are used up for housing.

Opportunities for fixing blame abound. Thrifty old folks can blame the flatlanders for spending their money like water, and fast-moving sophisticated city folks can curse the stingy, mean, inbred hicks for their stubbornness, until they sell out for big bucks, when they can curse them for that too. Nothing will hurt us, and the place we call home, more surely than this sort of name-calling. The forces at work are larger than any of us. Go back to rural character, the farms at the heart of it, and think of the landscape, the soil, the air, the water, and our power to nurture all that nourishes us. When we come together to consider laws regarding housing, we can't do better than to protect our water from being fouled, and the land from being crowded with houses, eroded, paved, contoured for exclusive human use. The forces of the marketplace are so large that all we can do to encourage restraint may just be enough to preserve the conditions of a life as good as any we've known.

Peter Murkett



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Sunday, 7:30 and 10:30 a.m.

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Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

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The Monterey News does not have a file of itself. For instance, we need several copies of the May, 1986 issue! We need Oct., Nov. and Dec. of 1985; Nov. of 1982; June of 1981; Jan., June, July, and Oct. of 1980; June of 1979; Dec. of 1978; March of 1977; Feb. of 1976; Nov. and Dec. of 1973; July, August, Sept. and Dec. of 1971. Do any of our readers have any of these back copies they can spare?

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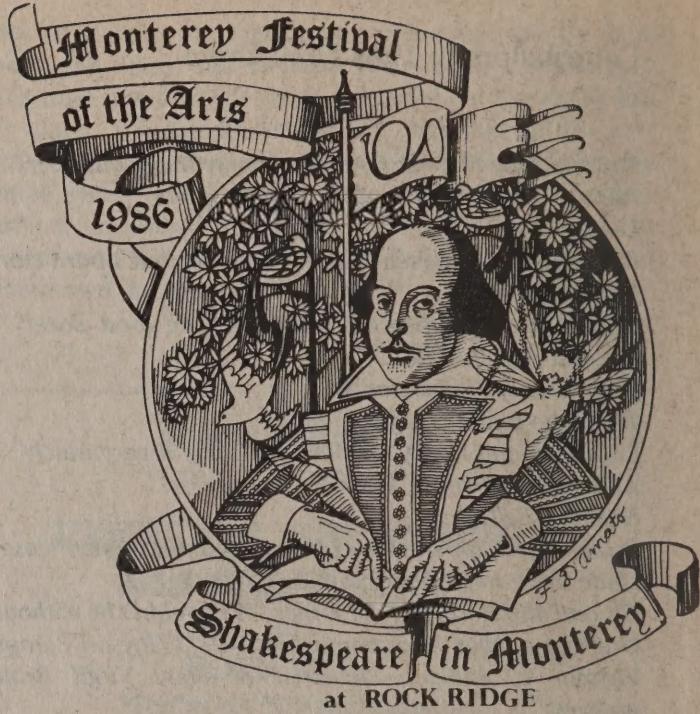
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See program, p. 5



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